# THE DIAL

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Vol. X. MARCH, 1890. No. 119.

#### CONTENTS.

HENRIK IBSEN. W. E. Simonds 30
RECENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DISCUSSION.
John Bascom
A MAN OF MANY FRIENDS. C. A. L. Richards . 30
RECENT STUDIES IN CONSTITUTIONAL HIS-
TORY. James O. Pierce
BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS
Davis's Recollections of Mississippi Uncle Dick
Wootton, the Pioneer FrontiersmanLetters of the
Duke of Wellington to Miss JMurdock's Recon-
struction of Europe.—Lucy Larcom's New England
Girlhood.—Anderson's Modern Horsemanship.—Van
Dyke's The Poetry of Tennyson,-Miss Selfe's Life
of Dr. Arnold of RugbyParis' Manual of Ancient
Sculpture H. H. Bancroft's History of Nevada,
Colorado, and Wyoming.—Markham's Life of John
Davis, Navigator,—Allen's Korean Tales,—George
Bancroft's Life of Martin Van Buren.

#### HENRIK IBSEN.\*

Miss Lord's translation of Ibsen's comedydrama "Et Dukkehjem" was originally published in London in 1882. The American publishers have given us, apparently, a reprint of this translation in the dainty volume in green and white which is now before us. There is no hint of this earlier appearance, however, upon the title-page.

Inasmuch as all our knowledge of the dramatist's life and character has come to us upon the ephemeral leaves of the magazines, a more extended biographical sketch would have been acceptable,—especially as Miss Lord, in her brief essay on the philosophy and methods of the playwright, is unable to do either the subject or herself the justice she perhaps intended. Her exposition of the play and of the spirit of its truly great creator is commendable. The lady shows herself an appreciative reader; at the same time she is admirably fair towards the critical philistines.

Ibsen's career as a dramatist really began

with the appearance of his "Catiline," in 1852. Its thesis is, that responsibility for guilt does not always lie at the door of the individual who commits the crime. Rome, not Catiline, is responsible for the troubles and anxieties occasioned by the conspirators' attempt. Here, as elsewhere, he rebels against the fate of environment. The State, and all its institutions, are boldly attacked, and weaknesses and defects remorselessly exposed and vigorously assailed. The attitude which he then assumed, Ibsen still to a great degree maintains. But let no one suppose that Ibsen is a socialist, or even, for that matter, a republican. Every form of government within his ken is delusive. The State would have us its debtors: as a matter of fact the State is tremendously the debtor to all its citizens. "The individual!" is Ibsen's watchword; and thus far none of Ibsen's criticisers has succeeded in interpreting to the world precisely what the poet means.

In 1862, the "Comedy of Love" appeared. Ibsen now turned his attention to the home and the institution of the family. Again he held a mirror up to nature—a mirror that did not flatter nor deceive. With a stern pitiless hand, he pointed out the wrinkles and blotches on the simpering face of a social life that he saw about him. Ruthlessly he dragged from the closets, whither the social pillars had agreed to banish them, the grinning skeletons, and left them gibbering there in all their nakedness. The critics declared that it was out of his own wretched experiences that Ibsen was writing. The poet had married in 1857; his wedded life had not proved altogether happy, and there was sufficient, perhaps, to give color to the insinuations of his enemies.

From what has been said, the reader may form some idea of Ibsen's peculiarities of thought and method. The State and Society are the culprits whom he arraigns, and whom he charges with high crimes and misdemeanors. Each one of those dramas which are distinctively Ibsenian—if I may use the word—is merely a statement of some such specific charge. His social dramas are assertions of social problems. He rarely suggests even an implied solution.

"I question for the most part, to answer is not my office," he declares plainly in his "Emperor and Galilean" (1873).

<sup>\*</sup>THE DOLL'S HOUSE: A PLAY. By Henrik Ibsen. Translated from the Norwegian by Henrietta Frances Lord. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

Our space will not permit us to examine the later plays of Ibsen individually. They are variations and amplifications along the lines already indicated. It is these later dramas which have made Ibsen's name familiar in America as well as Europe. Their order is as follows: "The Young Men's League" (1869), "Pillars of Society" (1877), "The Doll's House" (1879), "Spectres" (1881), "An Enemy of Society" (1882), "The Wild Duck" (1884), "Rosmersholm" (1886), and "The Lady from the Sea" (1888)

Lady from the Sea" (1888). "The Doll's House" is one of the strongest plays that Ibsen has produced. In the way of character-painting, and artful and artistic handling of the situations, he has done nothing better. It is a pity that we could not have had "The Enemy of Society," with its strong autobiographic suggestiveness, first; but there is no more characteristic play upon the list, nor one more indicative of the author's mind and power-if only it be read with fairness and appreciation,—than the one selected. The heroine of "The Doll's House" is its light-hearted pretty little mistress, Nora Helmer. She has been eight years the wife of Torvald Helmer, and is the mother of three bright vigorous children. She is her husband's doll. Torvald Helmer calls her his little lark, his squirrel, provides for her every fancy, hugely enjoys her charms of person, forgets that she has a soul - and is sure he loves her most devotedly. Nora has always been a child; her father, a man of easy conscience, has brought her up entirely unsophisticated. She knows nothing of the serious side of life, -of its privileges, its real opportunities, -nothing of the duties of the individual in a world of action. Nora is passive, she submits to be fondled and kissed. She is happy in her "doll-house," and apparently knows nothing outside her home, her husband, and her children. Nora loves her family with an ideal love. Love, in her thought, is an affection which has a right to demand sacrifices; and in turn is willing to offer up its own treasures, whether life, honor, or even its soul, be the stake. She is not merely ready for such a sacrifice—poor sentimental Nora!she has already, though in part ignorantly, made it, and has committed a crime to save her husband's life.

There is much machinery to carry on the plot; but in spite of the abstract nature of the theme, the episodes are so dramatic and the dialogue so brisk and natural that the drama moves without perceptible jar, and our interest intensifies and the suspense increases until the dénouement occurs. Herein lies the secret of the success of this and all the other of Ibsen's kindred dramas. Along with the poet's insight and the cold clear logic of the philosopher, he possesses in an emment degree the secret of the playwright's art, and knows well how to clothe his abstract dialogue on themes philosophical or psyschological, so that the observer follows every incident and every word with an interest that grows more and more intense.

It is impossible to tell all of Nora's story Miss Lord's translation will do that best, if only curiosity may be aroused concerning it. Suffice it to say that the catastrophe falls in a situation characteristically dramatic. The curtain descends just as Nora, the wife and mother, turns her back upon husband and children, and passes, by her own free choice, nay, in accord with her relentless insistence, out from her doll-home into the night, andwhither? This is the question that all the hosts of Ibsen's censors are repeating. Whither? And did she do right to leave her children and her husband? And what a revolutionary old firebrand Ibsen must be to teach such a moral, and proclaim the doctrine that all those unfortunate mismated women who find themselves bound to unsympathetic lords may, and should, turn their back on the home and abandon their offspring to the mercies of strangers! But alack! this isn't the moral of Nora Helmer's story. It was the doll-marriage and the relation between Torvald Helmer and his doll-wife that was at fault. Nora's abandonment was an accidental, though a necessary, episode. It is the dénouement of the play, to be sure; but the end is not yet. There is an epilogue as well as a prologue to the drama, though both are left to the reader's imagination to perfect. "A hope inspires" Helmer as he hears the door close after Nora's departure; and he whisperingly repeats her words-"the greatest of all miracles!"

This particular phase of wedded life—and perhaps it is becoming not so very infrequent a phase even on this side the water—is a problem which confronts us in society. Is this your idea of marriage? demands Ibsen. Is it a marriage at all? No; he declares bluntly. It is a cohabitation; it is a partnership in sensuality in which one of the parties is an innocent, it may be an unconscious, victim.

Nora goes forth, but we feel she will one day return; her children will bring her back. Neither she nor Torvald could have learned the bitter lesson had Nora remained at home. It is the wife at last who makes the sacrifice. How strange it is that so many of the critics fail to see that Nora's act is not selfishness after all! There is promise of a splendid womanliness in that "emancipated individuality" that Ibsen's enemies are ridiculing. There will be an ideal home after the mutual chastening is accomplished: an ideal home — not ideal people necessarily, but a home, a family, where there is complete community, a perfect love.

W. E. SIMONDS.

# RECENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DISCUSSION.\*

Every active period is critical. Our own period is preëminently active and preëminently critical. Earnest and intelligent men feel that issues for extended good or evil are being rapidly made up with us in the history of republican society and free government. The dangers are imminent. Political corruption, a grossly unequal distribution of wealth, an increase of the vicious and the thriftless, race prejudices, the tyranny of an iniquitous traffic over the public conscience, offer an accumulation of malign powers of the most formidable character. There is one fact which brightens the sky through all the clouds. Never was evil more distinctly seen or more boldly confronted than now. Discussion and action follow fast on each other.

Of the eleven books on our list, one is a

re-discussion of the most immediately influential branch of sociology—economics; four are works which treat, each of them, of a variety of social questions; while six deal exclusively with some one problem in our national life.

The "Institutes of Economics" has two main motives, as stated by the author: to furnish a brief text-book, giving more play than most treatises to the teacher and the taught in the recitation-room; and to handle the topics in a less detached form, with a deeper sense of their relation to sociology. President Andrews is thoroughly able and full of industry. What he does is always worthy of consideration. The method of treatment pursued by him has important gains and also serious losses. Such a book vindicates itself in the hands of a vigorous teacher, but is too much of the nature of a skeleton to be perused with much pleasure by the general reader. The work is full of material, but has precisely the opposite effect, with the reader simply, from what it was intended to have, and would have, in the hands of an instructor full of vitality,-that of wearying the mind with too many important truths, none of them sufficiently expanded to impress the thoughts. It is a book that is not only capable of yielding itself easily to the work of a teacher, it is excellent as a concise volume of reference and suggestion. The ground that President Andrews occupies lies intermediate between the catholic and conservative school of economics and the progressive and ethical one. He believes, on the one hand, in "certain general laws of absolute and universal validity"; and on the other, in "the rightfulness of public intervention," resting, on sufficient reasons. The sociological cast of the book lies chiefly in its historic material, and in a recognition of the many modifying conditions of economic

The book of Dr. Atkinson, on "The Industrial Progress of the Nation," with its compact octavo page, is voluminous. It is occupied almost wholly with Production, or with closely related questions; but its discussions attach chief importance to the general prosperity of the citizen. The work is a series of studies in sociology quite as much as in economics. About two-thirds of the volume has appeared previously, chiefly as articles in "The Century" and in "The Forum." The student in sociology cannot afford to neglect the labors of Dr. Atkinson. They receive form under so large a knowledge of affairs, and with so extensive an inquiry into facts, as to give them much prac-

<sup>\*</sup>Institutes of Economics. By Elisha Benjamin Andrews, D.D., LL.D. Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co.

THE INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS OF THE NATION. By Edward Atkinson, LL.D., Ph.D. New York: G. P. Putnam's

SUBJECTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE. By the Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., M.P., LL.D., Ph.D., F.R.S. New York: Cassell & Co.

Social Aspects of Christianity, and Other Essays. By Richard T. Ely, Ph.D. New York: Thos. Y. Crowell & Co. Problems in American Society. By Joseph Henry Crooker. Boston: George H. Ellis.

THE LAND AND THE COMMUNITY. By the Rev. S. W. Thackeray, M.A., LL.D., Trin. Coll. Cantab. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

D. Appleton & Co.
INVOLUNTARY IDLENESS. Labor and Its Products. By
Hugo Bilgram. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

Hugo Bilgram. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

AN APPEAL TO PHARAOH. The Negro Problem, and Its
Radical Solution. New York: Fords, Howard & Hulbert.

THE POLITICAL PROBLEM. By Albert Stickney. New York: Harper & Brothers.

Monopolies and the People. By Chas. W. Baker, C.E. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THE PUBLIC REGULATION OF RAILWAYS. By W. D. Dabney. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

tical interest, putting needed restraint on speculation, and on the fears and the hopes which arise from the contemplation of special causes. There is a large amount of healthful optimism in these investigations. Many correcting influences are discovered in existing evils under appearances which disguise them. Though Dr. Atkinson is sometimes obscure and tedious from diffuseness, he has done an important work. We trust his favoring estimates are more correct than we sometimes fear they are.

"Subjects of Social Welfare" is composed chiefly of addresses given on a variety of occasions by Professor Playfair. These addresses are pleasing, persuasive, and profoundly animated by some cogent purpose touching the general weal. They pertain chiefly to health, education, and economics. Though the discussions stand in immediate connection with the wants of England and Scotland, they have sufficient breadth to be of general interest. They are sustained by an extended knowledge of facts within the field under consideration. While urging progress, they are restrained in These discourses mark advantageously the points of influence of one who well represents a most intelligent and serviceable class of educated men, men who are the real strength of the community to which they be-

Professor Richard T. Ely, of Johns Hopkins University, has gained, by a variety of recent publications, very considerable influence in practical social questions. The result is fortunate. Though he is far from conservative, he is controlled by wide sympathies and a deep interest in the facts involved. His writings are very aidful in securing a more extended, intelligent, and patriotic attention to the social topics covered by them. The volume on "Social Aspects of Christianity" presents a brief but very earnest discussion of the duties of the church to society. In common with most men of an ardent and philanthropic temper, he thinks these obligations but very partially met. We thoroughly sympathise with the spirit and motive of this endeavor to redirect the religious devotion of the world to the furtherance of helpfulness and fellowship among men. Professor Ely is evidently full of belief, but of belief which attaches itself primarily to the words and works of Christ. The book contains also a brief discussion of Philanthropy and of Ethies and Economies. Professor Ely thinks ethical and economical questions are inseparably interlaced; nor is it easy for one who regards sociology as the fortunate construction of society, as the comprehensive science of humanity, to feel otherwise.

"Problems in American Society," by the Rev. J. H. Crooker, is a work wrought out in a somewhat less ardent and more conservative temper, but is none the less inspired by a thoughtful and earnest desire for social progress. The subjects discussed are: "The Student in American Life," "Scientific Charity," "The Temperance Problem," "The Political Conscience," "Biblical Instruction in Public Schools," "Religious Destitution of Villages." All are handled in a clear and interesting way. The last two, "Public Schools" and "Villages," are particularly worthy of note. The criticism of the methods of religious instruction in villages is especially applicable in the Western States. It ought not to be difficult to bring some immediate improvement to the competitive and feeble efforts now made by the several religious denominations. The article on Temperance lays chief emphasis, as well it may, on the moral elements in the problem. It does not favor prohibition. Mr. Crooker, like many another good man, fails to appreciate at its full force the fact that the problem is also one of economics and of civics, each in a high degree. Hundreds of thousands of the weakest of those who have best right to claim the safety of law are left without any sufficient legal protection, because of the liquor traffic. Children, by the tens of thousands, are subjected to conditions worse than those which fall to savage life.

These four volumes are made up of essays and discourses that are now sent out on their second service to the community. This is an instructive lesson to the clergy, when a volume of sermons is rare in appearance, and still more rare in rendering aid to the public.

There are four additional volumes, each of which treats of a specific evil and offers for it a heroic remedy. The peculiarly bold speculative spirit with which social questions are handled is seen in the fact that an author portrays an evil, and brings forward his prescription, attaching but slight importance to the fact that the proposed action is quite one side from men's thoughts, and from anything they are likely to undertake. Our proposed social cures are often of a surgical character, in which we prepare to divide deep, cut boldly out the malign part, and close up the wound,—as if society were already stretched on the clinical table on purpose to undergo our operations.

The authors of these remedies scarcely seem aware of the immense inertia which stands in the way of their proposals and is sufficient of itself to render them wholly nugatory. The first of the four volumes, "The Land and the Community," by S. W. Thackeray, an English clergyman, re-argues the land question from the point of view of Henry George. Mr. George furnishes a brief preface. The work treats of the historical circumstances under which the present tenure of land has arisen; of the infringement of the public rights involved in this tenure; of the right of the community to resume possession of its own; and of the gains that would follow on this resumption—to wit, free access to land, a better relation of classes, the removal of taxes, the removal of poverty. Those who desire to see the now familiar argument fairly well put, can find their wish met in this volume. Neither the author nor Henry George seems to understand that real progress is usually accompanied by many oppressive acts, and that men do not for that reason retrace their steps in a vain effort to correct the evils of a primitive movement. Progress lies by new ways, through new dangers, with new oppressions. No man's voice will ever be loud enough or strong enough to bid us successfully face about in our march.

The second volume, "Involuntary Idleness," by Hugo Bilgram, stands in suggestive contrast with the first volume. The remedy it proposes for essentially the same evil is not the abolition of rent but of interest. "An expansion of the volume of money by extending the issue of credit-money will prevent business stagnation and involuntary idleness." The book is to be commended for brevity. The obscurity of the style is in harmony with the impossible conclu-

sion to which it would lead us.

The "Appeal to Pharaoh" treats of the Negro problem, and urges transportation as its only solution. The book is lucid, vigorous, interesting, and is intended to be perfectly judicial. It is as fair a presentation as can well be made by one who evidently shares the race prejudice, whose universal presence and force the work asserts. It is one of the saddest of books. Its dark colors are due to the sincerity of the author, and the hopeless view he gives of American character. We are so subject to the race prejudice, he thinks, as to be ready to override all righteousness, all good-will, and to secure our own comfort as a people under this blind aversion by an act so wicked and highhanded that it would follow our history to its last syllable with the stern reprobation of heaven and humanity. If the facts are such, and only such, as are here presented, then there is very little sense of justice, and no reserve of righteousness, in us. The world would have very slight occasion to congratulate itself on any prosperity achieved by such a people in such a way. Yet it may, with much truth, be said that this one wrong would be better than those many injustices, little and large, with which we now meet this people at every turn. Have we, then, in ourselves only the possibility of one or the other great sin? The good taste of the author fails him when he brings the Bible into the discussion. Let us commit our national transgressions without dragging our sacred book in the dust behind us. If the author does not reckon with the righteousness of good men, neither does he with the unrighteousness of bad men. It will not be easy to awaken those whose interests are slight and remote to so great and so costly an undertaking.

"The Political Problem," by Albert Stickney, in a sharply-drawn and appreciative way presents the evils incident to our present form of politics. "It creates a privileged class; it bars the best men from the public service; it takes power out of the hands of the people; it destroys the political freedom of the citizen; it destroys the political freedom of the people; it destroys official responsibility; it corrupts our whole political life." The author implies not so much that these are all undeniable tendencies as that they are completed and final facts. He proposes an entire reconstruction of methods. Business is to be ordered through a series of public assemblies, which shall be the organs for the formation and declaration of the popular judgment. These popular assemblies are to have supreme control. The proposal forgets several things which we can hardly overlook and make our theory of practical moment. It overlooks the fact, or sets light by it, that such a scheme is so far off from anything with which we are historically united as to put it beyond our reach; that the evils incident to our present method are not more the fruits of our system than they are of those who work the system; and that a new crop of misfortunes would begin inevitably to appear in this prolific soil under the new conditions. Wholesale progress is impossible in all worlds, physical and spiritual. Slight corrections, and many of them, are all we can reasonably look for.

The two remaining books belong to an ex-

cellent kind, and well represent it. " Monopolies and the People" is full of information, but this is not its chief merit. I should be sorry to have the eye of anyone strike this brief notice without having his attention decisively directed to the work. It shows most distinctly how inapplicable the law of competition is to the later more close and active forms of business; how inevitably the severe and drastic character of the law leads those who would not themselves be destroyed by it to escape it through combination, in itself capable of securing a more peaceable and proportionate method. The conclusion, then, is that the community should accept these pacificatory adjustments, and protect its own interest by making itself a party to them.

The other volume, "The Public Regulation of Railways," by W. D. Dabney, is written from direct and liberal knowledge; and gives, in a form clear and concise, a large amount of legal and considerable economic material touching the great question, What can be done, and should be done, with railroads? The author is cautious and conservative in his own opin-The general impression which the facts in the case make is that railroad commissions —especially the Interstate Commerce Commission—call for more freedom of action. should have the power to settle specific cases widely, in view of all the interests involved. We might thus hope to allay existing evils without occasioning new ones, and slowly to formulate safe and generally applicable principles of procedure. This work meets a specific want exceedingly well. JOHN BASCOM.

#### A MAN OF MANY FRIENDS.\*

The intimate and appreciative companion of such diverse men as the mystic saint, Thomas Erskine; the devoted and catholic-minded prelate, Bishop Cotton of Calcutta; the quaint and mellow humorist, Dr. Brown of Edinburgh; the eloquent and brilliant preacher, Norman McLeod; the subtle and profound divine, John McLeod Campbell; the serene, gentle, and selfless spirit, John Mackintosh of Geddes, and the brooding scholar-poet, Arthur Hugh Clough, can have been himself no common person. He had other friends not commemorated in this volume,—among the dead,

Dean Stanley and Matthew Arnold; among the living, Professor Jowett and Chief-Justice Coleridge and Bishop Temple. It is trite to say that a man is known by his company, and it is not always true. Men are strangely huddled together sometimes by accident, and strong intellects rest themselves in queer associations. Great poets and humorists and men of letters lay down their genius and find comfortable companionship in dull and commonplace society. When you ask their insufficient comrades to weigh and measure those whose hours of relaxation they have shared, you find at once that they have never met on equal terms; that they have never really seen the man whom the world reverences; that they have no light to throw upon his personality; that they were admitted only to a single homely or shabby corner of him; that he lounged indeed on their sofas, and vawned in their hammocks, and climbed mountains and sailed seas with them, but always left the upper part of him ashore when he boarded the yacht, at home when he took up the alpen-stock, somewhere outside as he smoked their cigars and drank their wine and ate their dinners. Only a person of some kindred calibre is able to measure the man of the higher sort, however often he may be thrown into relation with him. No one can paint a portrait very much above his own level. The artist is, after all, the chief limitation upon his art. He puts into his picture a good deal of his sitter, but a good deal more of himself. Could Quasimodo conceive a faultless Apollo? Would there not be hint of hump or crook or misfeature somewhere? The man who is many-sided enough to catch the lights and shadows of such varied figures as Erskine and Campbell and Brown and Cotton and Clough must himself have been, if not in all respects their equal, at least altogether of their kind, their fitting mate and natural inter-

Principal Shairp had a genius for friend-ship, was a lover of his fellow-men, not in any vague philanthropic fashion, but with an alert interest and sympathy for individuals. His heart, always open to a true man, found not a few worthy of entering it. It was said of a certain clever contemporary, by one who knew him in his youth, that he could not go down to the front gate without meeting a lion, so happy and adventurous were his chance encounters. It would seem true of Principal Shairp that he could not enter any company without finding a friend. He had a remarka-

<sup>\*</sup>PORTRAITS OF FRIENDS. By John Campbell Shairp. With a Sketch of Principal Shairp by William Young Sellars, and an Etched Portrait. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

ble discernment of what it was in each new comrade that won his attachment. As he survived a good many of his famous friends, he recorded his impressions of them; and when he departed, a fitting hand was found to do the same kind office, sympathetically and dis-

cerningly, for him.

The present volume, prepared from Professor Knight's somewhat redundant biography, coutains Professor Sellars's reminiscences of Shairp, and Shairp's own sketches of the friends whom we have already mentioned. Born in Scotland, in July, 1819, the son of an Indian army officer, who had subsided, after distinguished service, into a Scottish laird. John Campbell Shairp was educated at Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Oxford; became a master at Rugby under Dr. Tait, afterward Archbishop; was married in 1853; became Assistant Professor of Latin in 1857, and full Professor in 1861, at St. Andrew's, and Principal there in 1868. He was Professor of Poetry at Oxford in 1877. He died at Ormsary, Argyll, on the 18th of September, 1885. works, mostly collected from magazines, bear the titles of "Culture and Religion," "Studies in Poetry and Philosophy," "Poetic Interpretation of Nature," "Aspects of Poetry," "Sketches in History and Poetry." Besides, there is a life of Burns, a life of Principal Forbes, and a volume of poems.

Professor Sellars, a friend and colleague for many years, describes Shairp's freshness and buoyancy, his affectionate, pure, genuine and generous nature; his loval, reverent, disinterested and consistent character. He was essentially a Scotchman, and loved the Magician of the North too dearly to criticize him. He came early under the stimulating and subduing influence of Wordsworth and Coleridge, Arnold and Newman and Carlyle. He was a scholar, but not a recluse. He loved hunting, "curling," and society. He was, like Mr. Emerson's ideal gentleman, "good company for pirates and academicians," perfectly at his ease with all sorts and conditions of men. He met them "with a smile in the eye as well as on the lip," and was the life and soul of the social circle. His friendships were among men of pith and likelihood, and men of serious frame with whom religion was the chief concern. He could meet them all sympathetically, on whatever ground. Himself a conservative Broad Churchman of the school of Erskine and Campbell, he had room enough for Newman and Keble and Arnold and Clough in his large heart. "He was a true discerner of character, and what he looked for in anyone he cared for was that he should be genuine—his real self." He smiled at affectation, but was scornfully indignant with falsity or baseness. His candor and generosity were his most conspicuous characteristics.

That is Professor Sellars's record. Richard Steele said that he judged of men as they judged of women. It is no bad criterion. In like manner we may judge of men by the things that they select as admirable in other men. What they love defines them. What, then, are the characteristics that Shairp recognizes with praise in the friends he portrays for us? In his paper on Erskine, it is his "deep and tender affectionateness" and his "art of expressing it simply and naturally" that attract him. Then he notes Erskine's "entire openness of mind," his readiness to hear the other side, the candor of his answers, his goodness of heart, his profound interest, not in speculative theology, but in essential religion. "His inner spirit breathed the atmosphere of St. John." Those who talked with him felt that they had overheard "a high pure strain of heavenly music." So of Bishop Cotton, Shairp notes first his "large tolerance and perfect fair-mindedness," and then his stability-unshaken by the new views he had welcomed. Then he tells us of Cotton's unselfishness, his placidity, his quick interest, his quiet humor, his pervasive thoroughness and kindliness, his "unresting, unhasting industry," his exhaustive reading, his perpetually deepening imagination, his truth and genial goodness, his wish to know that he might do. It is Cotton, surely; but is it not very much Shairp also?

Of the author of "Rab and His Friends," we are told of his sympathetic insight; his keen discrimination of character; his large forbearance and charity that gilded fault or foible with a gleam of tender humor; his fine gift of literary expression, by which his three volumes "embalm whatever has been best in the life of Scotland during the last half-century"; his hearty recognition of beauty, nobleness, or truth anywhere; his "fine nature, too wide, too sympathetic, to be confined within any bounds of politics or sect"; and the "strong background of reverence, devoutness, and humble trust" against which these gifts and graces were relieved. In the portrait of Norman McLeod, Shairp's Scotch heart is very manifest, as he tells of McLeod's Celtic race and training, of the endless Highland tales and legends that were brought into his childish mind, with their "poetry, romance, adventure, mystery, gladness, and sadness infinite." We read of McLeod's recoil from "the prosaic Reid and the long-winded Thomas Brown"; his early devotion to Wordsworth and Coleridge; his universal interest in men; his quick response to all that was great and noble; his "imagination, sympathy, buoyancy, humor, drollery, and affectionateness," and his cheerful self-denial in the subordination of literature to ministerial duty.

When we turn to McLeod Campbell, we notice that Shairp dwells not on his theological profundity and subtlety so much as his genuineness. "Everything he uttered had passed through the strainers of his own thought and bore the mint-mark of his own veracity.' We hear of his "scrupulous justness and exactness," his "penetrating inwardness" and "watchful conscientiousness," his "eminent sanity of judgment," and his "atmosphere of perfect charity." And when Shairp is dealing with John Mackintosh, whose life was more of promise than fulfilment, it is the same sort of qualities he values and records,-scrupulous conscientiousness, singleness of aim, resoluteness of purpose, strict self-discipline, fidelity in trifles, youthful austerity mellowing into a "more gentle, more serene, more loving" mood; a purity that shed all stains, a womanly sympathy and compassion. You are shown Mackintosh as in a magic glass, but you detect Shairp plainly visible behind him. You reconstruct his own portrait from the lines and colors of his portraitures. You see that the man who had such friends, and loved such elements in them, was a rare and beautiful spirit. He was not a great man, hardly a brilliant one. His style is lax; his portraitures want the incisive touches, the spurts of biting acid with which Carlyle etches a character for all time. His writings lack "body" perhaps, and the aroma is faint and evasive. His verse is but graceful trifling with the muse. He is deficient in humor and in vigor. But he is at home with goodness and truth and greatness always. He is not as the sun in his glory, nor the mountain in its grandeur. He is as the broad unruffled lake which mirrors, humbly and thankfully, the greatness and the glory, and, doubling them on its receptive surface, leads us to love it and them

C. A. L. RICHARDS.

#### RECENT STUDIES IN CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY.\*

The late influx of books devoted to a discussion of questions in Constitutional History and the development of Institutions indicates a desire for such books on the part of the reading public, or at least the belief of publishers in such a desire. These works are of all grades, ranging from the essay, through the monograph, up to the treatise. Probably the taste for reading as well as that for preparing these writings,-or, in other words, the laws governing both the demand and the supply,-are to be ascribed to the rounding-out of our centennial period, and the patent fact of our national prosperity, political no less than economical, as stimulating inquiry into the origin of the causes of this success. We have apparently entered upon a renascence period of constitutional and institutional research and study. The variety of questions discussed and of modes of treatment thereof, in the present group of books, is indicative of the breadth and extent of the interest felt by historians, students, and the general reading public, in this renascence movement.

The first book on our list, "Constitutional History of the United States," consists of five lectures delivered before the University of Michigan. These lectures constitute a symposium upon the subject of the development of constitutional principles in the United States during the past century. They were given,—by Judge Cooley, upon the place of the Federal Supreme Court in the American system; by by Mr. Hitchcock, of St. Louis, upon the influence of Chief Justice Marshall; by Mr. Biddle, of Philadelphia, upon the influence of Chief Justice Taney; by Mr. Kent, of Ann Arbor, upon the influence of the decisions of

<sup>\*</sup>CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, as seen in the Development of American Law. Lectures before the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND: An Essay on the Constitution. By Bernard Moses, Ph.D. Oakland, Cal.: Pacific Press Publishing Co.

THE STATE: Elements of Historical and Practical Politics.
A Sketch of Institutional History and Administration. By
Woodrow Wilson, Ph.D., LL.D. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

Essays on Government. By A. Lawrence Lowell. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

ESSAYS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, in the Formative Period, 1775-1789. Edited by J. Franklin Jameson, Ph.D. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, from their Declaration of Independence to the Close of their Civil War. By George Ticknor Curtis. In two volumes. Vol. I. New York: Harper & Brothers.

the Supreme Court since the war; and by Mr. Chamberlain, of New York, upon the place of the State Judiciary in the American system. An introduction by the editor, Professor Henry Wade Rogers, calls attention to the reason why constitutional law is the characteristic feature of the American legal system. The principal novelty in that system is the extraordinary power given to the judiciary. It is this, and not the fact of our adherence to written constitutions, which has given constitutional law its prominence in this country. Judge Cooley, always a deep thinker upon constitutional questions, has, in this lecture, illustrated from various points of view the position occupied by the Federal Supreme Court; but his lecture would have been of great value if he had done nothing more than to bring out, as he has done, the manner in which Chief Justice Jay, by his decision in Chisholm vs. Georgia, aided in the establishment of the proposition that under our system the power of sovereignty resides in the aggregate people. Mr. Chamberlain sums up succinctly the relations existing between the federal and state judiciary, and the separate parts of the American constitutional system, calling attention to the merits and the importance of each. He is not so clear in discussing the question of sovereignty, being strongly inclined to attribute that power to the United States Government and the States severally, and overlooking the fact that these governments, instead of being themselves sovereign, are respectively agencies for executing the will of the sovereign, which is the aggregate people. Mr. Biddle's very full and illustrative résumé of the judicial work of Chief Justice Taney goes outside of his theme, in several instances, in referring to the decisions of that eminent magistrate upon other than constitutional questions, which, however interesting, are not a proper part of a constitutional discussion. Mr. Kent's lecture explains to popular comprehension the character of the changes introduced into our Constitution by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments; these changes, however, not reaching, in view of the decisions of the federal courts, the same results, in all respects, that statesmen had intended. The gem of this series of lectures, however, is that by Mr. Hitchcock. It is a dramatic representation of the great achievements of Marshall as the first and foremost of our constitutional lawyers. His appropriate share of the work of constitutional development during his era is shown statistically. At

the time of his advancement to the Supreme bench, only six cases involving constitutional principles had come before that court for decision. Of the sixty-one constitutional decisions during his term of service, no less than thirty-six were rendered by Marshall; among them, many of the most important in all respects. The process by which he thus con tributed so largely to the building up of the edifice of our constitutional jurisprudence is described particularly by the lecturer, who justly attributes to Chief Justice Marshall the achievement of laying the lasting foundations of the dignity with which that court has ever since performed its constitutional functions.

The peculiar aspects of Federalism in Switzerland, and the manner in which it has grown and developed in spite of the natural obstacles of diversity of surface and variety of language, form the principal theme of Professor Moses's treatise on the "Federal Government of Switzerland." These aspects are presented with reference to the various subjects of Distribution of Political Power, the limited Federal Legislature, the peculiar Executive and the feeble Judiciary of the Swiss Confederation. as well as its Foreign and Domestic Relations. Not content, however, with stating the characteristics of these features in that confederation by themselves, the author has industriously compared and contrasted them, one by one, with the corresponding institutions of other Federated Governments, republican and otherwise. By this comparative scheme of study of the Swiss peculiarities, the American student of the institutions of his own country can acquire a better understanding of these institutions, and secure data for estimating their comparative advantages.

A fuller and broader application of the same scheme of institutional investigation has resulted in Mr. Wilson's volume of 660 pages on "The State." This shrewd and careful student here presents views, in extended summary form, of the leading features of all the more important ancient and modern systems of government,-among his subjects thus treated being the Governments of Greece and Rome, the Roman Dominion and Law, Teutonic Policy during the Middle Ages, the Dual Monarchies of Austria-Hungary and Sweden-Norway, and the governmental systems of England, Germany, France, Switzerland, and the United States. As to each of these several governments, a historical resumé notes the successive constitutional changes, while the existing system is industriously explained in detail. The work of comparison, which is mainly left to the reader, is facilitated by the laborious illustrations of the distinctive features of each system, the analysis by which these features are classified, and the introduction of frequent and convenient catch-words in enlarged letters. The closing chapters of the treatise discuss in a general way the nature and attributes of law, the office and use of legal institutions, and the functions and objects of government, in which discussion the comparative method of study is to some extent employed. No more interesting matter could be furnished to the readers of THE DIAL, did space permit, than some extracts from this work of Mr. Wilson. The brief description already given will doubtless justify the statement that it is not only a most satisfactory example of the assiduous researches of the American school of politicohistorical study, but an invaluable contribution to the libraries of historians, lawyers, statesmen, and political economists. Not the least of its merits is the full bibliography, appended to each of the topical chapters, of the subject discussed in such chapter.

Mr. Abbott Lawrence Lowell, in his series of five "Essays on Government," discusses some of the more abstruse and metaphysical problems in reference to the American Constitution which are now agitating the students of that instrument; and employs in the discussion modes of thought and argument similar to those with which the readers of Sir Henry Maine are familiar. Indeed, it is plain that this essayist has been much influenced by the example and style of Maine, though he is less discursive, and confines his observations, so far as the essays in question are concerned, within narrower limits. Considering the questions of Sovereignty, the Theory of the Social Compact, and the proposed introduction into America of Cabinet Responsibility, he concerns himself principally with the facts which he finds existing in and controlling the American governmental system. The theories of other essavists are brought to the test of the actual mode of operations of the government. In considering the Limits of Sovereignty, while the essayist agrees generally with Austin's conclusions as to the office and place of Sovereignty in a governmental system, he contests the theory of unlimited sovereignty, by adverting to the circumstance which exhibits one feature of sovereignty according to Austin,namely, that a sovereign is one who shall "receive habitual obedience from the bulk of a given society," and calling attention to the stubborn fact that, practically, the bulk of society may refuse to obey a command of the sovereign which they heartily disapprove. It requires both the command of the sovereign and obedience thereto in fact by his subjects to round out the Austinian idea of sovereignty, so that "no command or rule of conduct is a law if it does not receive the obedience of the bulk of the society"; or, in other words, "the extent of sovereign power is measured by the habit, the opinion, and the disposition of the bulk of the society." However this view of Sovereignty may apply to a monarchy, it is difficult to see its application to a republic. But in discussing Cabinet Responsibility as proposed for this country, Mr. Lowell forcibly argues that, as to the Presidency, the checks and balances of the two houses of Congress, the division of power between the federal and state authority, and the distinctive powers of our judiciary, and in fact as to most of the peculiar features of our system, the practical workings of Cabinet Responsibility would completely transform it into another and different system. He does not believe that the mode in which the federal legislature now exercises its powers has done as much toward such a transformation as is insisted upon by Mr. Woodrow Wilson in his work on Congressional Government. In considering the theory of the Social Compact, Mr. Lowell seems to be of the opinion that that theory is responsible for the doctrine that our American constitutional system is in part unwritten, and is inclined to contest this doctrine as based wholly upon that exploded To this opinion a demurrer must theory. be interposed. Notwithstanding some judicial references to the theory of the Social Compact, it is true as a fact that certain constitutional principles, not written in our fundamental law, are yet recognized and acted upon as a part thereof; and this is not only a fact, but one which is explainable upon purely constitutional grounds, and without reference to the Social Compact theory. It is a pleasure, however, to find clear evidence, as to most of the arguments advanced by Mr. Lowell, that he has studied closely and understandingly the characteristics of American constitutional law. It is particularly gratifying to find in him an essayist ready to challenge any political theory, by whomsoever advanced, and to peremptorily demand its credentials. In his essay on "Democracy and the Constitution," Mr. Lowell appropriately suggests that the power of the American courts to declare a statute unconstitutional is not in fact a veto-power, but that "the Court, in refusing to enforce such a statute, is giving effect to the popular will." But in discussing "The Responsibility of American Lawyers," his view of the effect of such a declaration by the courts, as being that "the present wishes of the people cannot be carried out, because opposed to their previous intention and to the views of their remote ancestors," is neither full nor accurate, and needs revision. restriction imposed by the Constitution is more than a statement of what is the popular will at the time: it is also an agreement and a compact, protecting the minority and binding the majority so long as it stands a part of the Constitution; and furthermore, it is a standing limitation upon the authority of and the instructions to successive legislatures, removable only in a constitutional mode. So our constitutional safeguards in this respect should not be consid-

ered fragile. The collection of essays edited by Professor J. F. Jameson are an additional overflow of the studies in American Constitutional History by the graduates and members of the Johns Hopkins University. Here are portrayed the movements toward our present Constitution, immediately preceding its adoption, in various fields of constitutional development. The editor's essay, at the head of the list, has previously appeared in the "Johns Hopkins Studies," treating of the old Federal Court of Appeals as the precursor of the present Supreme Court of the United States and the prompter of the general scheme of a Federal Judiciary. Mr. Edward P. Smith's account of the movement towards a Second Constitutional Convention in 1788 gives a graphic description of the criticisms, objections, and controversies in respect to the Federal Constitution as originally submitted, and the perils and difficulties out of which its adoption was finally secured, which well illustrates to the student of our history the constitutional situation at the time when the first ten amendments were proposed and adopted. How the executive departments of the government, as newly introduced by the Constitution of 1787, had naturally grown up during the period of the war and the Confederation, is exhibited in a paper by Mr. Jay C. Guggenheim. The Departments of State, War, Navy, Treasury, and Post-Office, now exist substantially as at first created. Experience only could have suggested how to erect, protect, and limit such executive departments, and how to grant and withhold power in so doing. That experience the country had received, during the gradual development from the early "Committees" of the Continental Congress, through the "Boards," of which persons not sitting in the Congress were members, into the crude "Departments" of the Confederation. That experience had demonstrated the impracticability of managing such operations through boards or committees, and the necessity of placing individual responsibility at the head of each department. A paper by Professor William P. Trent traces the operation of the same tendencies toward constitutional organization in the several American churches and religious bodies, the essavist discovering contemporaneous movements toward constitutionalism, in both civil and ecclesiastical institutions, and arguing that each reciprocally affected and assisted the development of the other. The effect of this era of constitution-making upon slavery and the status of the slaves, and its influence in promoting tendencies toward emancipation, are explained in an essay by Mr. Jeffrey R. Brackett.

These various specialized illustrations of the operation of constitutional forces and tendencies, upon particular lines and in different fields, which are the outgrowth of the recently developed taste for minute institutional study, are well supplemented by the reappearance, in a new form, of Mr. George Ticknor Curtis's standard "Constitutional History of the United States." This work is now to be enlarged by the author, so as to cover the period ending with the close of the Civil War; and the first one of the two volumes of the contemplated work, now before us, is a reprint of the matter formerly contained in two volumes, closing with the adoption of the Constitution. The broad generalizations necessary in a history covering so large a subject differentiate this work from all that of the essayists before referred to, while there is no conflict between them, and the writings of each are a complement to those of the other class. It is, however, but just to say that the later essayists have often occupied new points of observation, and have to some extent introduced new modes of investigation. The extension of the historical perspective has of itself furnished increased facilities for measuring the magnitude and estimating the comparative value of the various transactions of the constitution-making period. These advantages will no doubt be utilized by Mr. Curtis in his treatment, for his promised new volume, of the period succeeding the institution of the Federal Government, and we may expect, with a comprehensive and summary résumé of this period, similar to that given in his first volume, and which has proved so satisfactory to his readers, a careful tracing of the development, under the Constitution, of the several features which distinguished it at its adoption, and still distinguish it, from all constitutions which preceded it.

James O. Pierce.

#### BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

For accurate and graphic portrayal of ante-bellum men and manners in the Southwestern States, we have seen nothing better than "Recollections of Mississippi " (Houghton), by Reuben Davis, " sole survivor of the Mississippi bar of fifty years ago." The author has been a man of marked prominence and activity; and to review his life is to review, in a great measure, the contemporary history of the commonwealth in which it has been passed. The book is written in a clear straightforward style, with an occasional flourish of old-fashioned rhetoric that is not unpleasing. Mr. Davis's great merit as an autobiographer is his frankness. His standards of living are, in many respects, different from oursand he does not hesitate to tell us so. The time of his youth and early manhood he regards as a Saturnian age, an age of public virtue and stern (if rude) justice-from which we have been degenerating ever since. Men in his day "made no scruple about a social glass, or a lively dance, or a game of cards, or even of an honest hand-to-hand fight," he tells us; but "there was no ballot-box stuffing." Mr. Davis's pages are brimful of anecdote - his own share in the incidents being freely, sometimes naively, related. For instance, we learn that at a ball which he attended when a young man a quarrel arose as to "precedence of claim upon the attention of one of the ladies. To my great surprise I was grossly insulted by the gentleman whose claims conflicted with mine. Justly outraged, I no sooner withdrew my adversary from the presence of the ladies than I challenged him to defend himself, and assaulted him with my pocket-knife." This, it seems, was quite in accordance with Mississippi etiquette. On another occasion, in the court-room, Mr. Davis was arbitrarily fined by the presiding judge. "At this point," he relates, "my patience gave way, and I felt myself in a perfect blaze of sudden fury. I had in my pocket a very fine knife with a long thin blade. As I sprang to my feet I drew out this knife, opened it, and threw it point foremost into the bar, looking steadily at the judge all the while. My object was to induce the judge to order me to jail, and then to attack him on the bench." His honor afterwards resented this affront to the judicial ermine by pounding Mr. Davis over the head with a clawhammer. One should remember that our author lived in a state of society in which these summary methods were prescribed and applauded. It is surprising to find one of Mr. Davis's general accuracy so much at fault as he is in his reference to party history at the beginning of Chapter xxvii. The passage is too long to quote, but we may say that, in discussing some elementary facts in American politics, he quite reverses the respective attitudes toward the general government of the early parties—a reversal which leads him into further errors. The publishers have done full justice, in respect of print and binding, to this entertaining book.

A "SIMPLE, manly, artless, chatty narrative," is what Major Kirkland, in his brief but spirited Introduction, calls the work of his fellow-realist, "Uncle Dick Wootton, the Pioneer Frontiersman of the Rocky Mountain Region," whose autobiography has just been published, in a large octavo volume, by W. E. Dibble & Co., Chicago. We heartily endorse the commendation of the venerable but undecrepit Uncle Dick. Fifty-three years a hunter, trapper, trader, Indian-fighter and government scout,-such is the record of the grizzled veteran whose grim uncompromising countenance faces the reader as he opens the book. The story of such a life could hardly fail to be interesting reading,-told in the simple chatty narrative of the old pioneer himself, it is doubly so. The book is a series of reminiscences which the old man gave verbally to a party of summer idlers, one of whom jotted the words down and gave the story a form suitable for publication. "It is," says Major Kirkland, "nearly the last of the long list of authentic biographies of a time which is gone by never to return." An associate of Kit Carson, with whose name his own is linked in many a tale of peril and adventure, "Uncle Dick" is one of the last survivors of that noted band of frontiersmen and pathfinders who a half-century ago crossed the Missouri to hunt, to fight, to explore and open up an unknown country for the better civilization which was to follow. "Uncle Dick" gloried in this wild pioneer life. He was a born hunter, and his was a time when good game abounded. He could usually have his choice of elk, antelope, mountain lions, bears of several varieties, and buffalo. His favorite game was bears - excepting Indians. He once shot a bear in the night, and on inspecting his game next morning was much disappointed at not finding it an Indian. Naturally, he had no very exalted opinion of the Indian character. "When I say good Indians," said he, "I mean dead ones. Some people may not agree with me on this point, but I think I know what I'm talking about. If I don't I ought to, for I've been among 'em long enough." It is highly probable that the Indians' acquaintance with Uncle Dick may have led them to regard him, in their turn, as a somewhat unlovely character. Their opinions of him would no doubt be interesting,—but they will probably never be known. It is only the accounts given by their white adversaries that form the materials of border romance. The book has some very good illustrations, several of the portraits of Indians being especially striking.

A TASTEFUL volume, "The Letters of the Duke of Wellington to Miss J." (Dodd, Mead & Co.), brings to light a curious episode of the past, which has its pathetic as well as its ludicrous side. The materials of the book-the Duke's letters and the diary and letters of Miss J .- have lain for years unnoticed in the attic of a New York country-house. Perhaps the fact that such available publisher's grist has been so long in coming to the mill is due to motives of delicacy on the part of Miss J.'s friends. Their relative's side of the story is pitiful enough in all conscience; and they shrank, no doubt, from the thought of "coining into drachmas" the recorded follies of one near to them-until a decent period had elapsed. But Miss J. has been dead these twenty-eight years; so that the packets of letters may be untied, and the diary, freighted with its fantastic story, unclasped. Miss J. was a young and beautiful woman, whose early devotional tendencies had ripened into fanaticism. Conceiving herself to be the messenger of God, and having successfully "labored with" a condemned murderer, she resolved to convert the Duke of Wellington. Accordingly, she wrote to the Duke, and received a courteous reply. A second interchange of missives was followed by an interview-a most extraordinary one, according to Miss J., signalized by a declaration of love from the Duke in the following brief but unmistakable terms: "Oh how I love you! how I love you!" We will remind the reader that His Grace was then sixty-five, and that our heroine was subject to hallucinations. The Duke's letters are certainly not those of a lover. They are usually courteous, sometimes friendly, always brief, and occasionally evince a desire to get rid of his pertinacious exhorter. Occasionally there is a hiatus in the correspondence; but Miss J. returns again and again to the charge, like the French at Waterloo, and the Duke finally surrenders-and posts a reply. The summing-up of this curious affair would seem to be that the Duke was more tolerant of the meddling of this young and beautiful woman than he would have been of that of a less charming person; and that having once encouraged Miss J., an abrupt dismissal was out of the question. The vigor of the persecution to which the unfortunate warrior was subjected may be inferred from the following extract from one of his replies: "The Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Miss J. He has no Lock of Hair of Hers. He never had one. The Duke is not aware that he has been guilty of presumption, of daring presumption," etc. The Duke's letters are full of a dry unconscious humor that renders them very amusing. The volume is neatly gotten up, and the editing, by Miss C. T. Herrick, is thorough and exact.

IT seems a trifle ungracious to introduce the criticism of a book with an exception to its title, but the discrepancy between the rather high-sounding name "Reconstruction of Europe" (Houghton) and the contents of the volume which bears it is so marked that the critic for once may be excused. If we first inquire what this title implies, it will then be pertinent to pursue the inquiry and ask whether the material of Mr. Murdock's book justifies the adoption of it. The "reconstruction of Europe" after the revolutions of 1848 would, among other things, include a detailed account of the vicissitudes which encountered the Austrian monarchy and necessitated the establishment of the present dual system; of the movements in southeastern Europe. which are still tentative; of the progress of Russia; of the dynastic changes in Denmark and the position of the Schleswig-Holstein Duchies, -as well as of the rise of Italy and Germany, and the varied fortunes of the French nation. It would involve, morever, a more or less philosophical treatment of the causes which produced all these external changes. Battles and campaigns are no longer history in its best sense, but Mr. Murdock, as he confesses in his preface, treats particularly and almost wholly of the manœuvres of the Crimean War and of those of the Italian and German conflicts. Armies march across the scene; generals ride to the outposts or linger in the bivouac; trumpets and drums sound charges at the Alma, at Solferino, or at Sedan; and the fortunes of dynasties are decided in a day. But what do we learn of the causes which animated these various movements, or of the hidden motives which inspired these changes? What do we learn of the growth of public spirit and of the power of the people? What do we grasp from this volume of the potentialities and the meaning of the nineteenth century, as contrasted in its latter half with the century which preceded it? Candor compels the critic to say that, while the résumé which is here given of the Crimean war and of the rise of Italy and Germany is both interesting and agreeable to read, the author has fallen short of the greatness and dignity of his subject. His book, which is in itself excellent so far as it goes, is put at a curious disadvantage by the inconsistency between itself and its title. The brief but valuable Introduction by Mr. John Fiske may be supplemented by reading Freeman's Oxford Lectures of 1887, entitled "Fifty Years of European History," where the subject is handled with masterly and exhaustive ability.

A NOTEWORTHY contribution to "The Riverside Library for Young People" (Houghton) is Lucy Larcom's graphic sketch. "A New England Girlhood." The writer tells her story frankly and unaffectedly, and interweaves it with a singularly vivid picture of New England "as it used to be." This old New England life is not, in itself, an alluring subject, or one likely to warm the imagination. Nothing short of the sympathetic genius of a Hawthorne could have discerned and pointed out for

us the modest beauty of the hardy blossoms, the snow-flowers of life, that flourished under the frosty breath of New England Puritanism. In Miss Larcom's sketch there is the old suggestion of flintiness, of æsthetic poverty, of a life thrifty, meagre, icily virtuous, grimly unattractive. Even a holiday feast was to this inflexible people a sort of mortifying of the flesh. Miss Larcom describes a delicacy familiar to her girlhood, known as "'lection cake " a festal phenomenon which was only "a kind of sweetened bread with a shine of egg-and-molasses on top." Now this meagre and ascetic "'lection cake" furnishes a very fair analogy to New England life "as it used to be." There was a sad lack of the citron, and plums, and spices, and other good (if not altogether wholesome) things of life, in each. The author's account of the Lowell factorygirls of her day is extremely interesting. These young women, it seems, in addition to their regular avocation, published, edited, and wrote for magazines; they were astonishingly familiar with "solid" literature, and beguiled the breakfast hour at their boarding-houses with scientific and metaphysical discussions. One wonders which was the more indigestible, the conversation or the viands. But whatever may be the limitations of Miss Larcom's subject, her treatment of it is admirable. Nothing better of its kind has come under our notice than " A New England Girlhood."

A NEW edition, re-written and re-arranged, has been issued of E. L. Anderson's popular work on "Modern Horsemanship" (Putnam's Sons), which originally appeared in 1884. Professor Anderson is a thorough master of his art, having spent some thirty years in its study and practice in the various countries of Europe. As a result, he has originated a very distinct school of horsemanship, and the present volume is a description of his methods. For the purpose of bringing out certain points the book has been re-arranged in three parts, the first of which is devoted to the needs of ordinary riding, such as the mount, the various gaits, etc.; the second to a method for the training of the saddle-horse; and the third to the purely ornamental movements of the riding-school. Professor Anderson's style is concise, and his explanations are clear and explicit. The book is most admirably illustrated with forty autotype reproductions of instantaneous photographs, which show a given position at a glance more clearly than several pages of verbal explanation might do. Altogether, the book is a valuable one, and should interest all horsemen, from the lover of a quiet nag and a country road to the pupil of the manège and la Haute Ecole.

The Rev. Henry Van Dyke's essays on "The Poetry of Tennyson" (Scribner) are marked by the sympathy and reverence that should characterize discussion of the subject, although a flippant note is struck here and there not exactly in harmony with the general tenor of the writer's observations. Even this, however, may be forgiven, when it results in

so good a thing as the following, which refers to the reception given at certain hands to Lord Tennyson's later poems: "The slight critics who sneered at them as the work of an old man, and welcomed them with a general chorus of 'Go up, thou baldhead,' only condemned themselves, and made us regret that since the days of Elisha the bears have allowed one of their most beneficent functions to fall into disuse." We are especially thankful to Mr. Van Dyke for his interesting, if a little forced, comparison between Milton and Tennyson, and for the chapter which does such ample justice to what the writer calls "The Historic Trilogy"—that is, the three dramatic poems of "Harold," "Becket," and "Queen Mary." With his defense of the Arthurian idyls against the strictures of Mr. Swinburne we cannot agree. It seems to us that the latter has, with unerring artistic instinct, put his finger upon the radical defect of that otherwise remarkable series of poems.

THE useful "World's Workers" series (Cassell) is closed by a monograph on Dr. Arnold of Rugby, by Rose E. Selfe. This little volume is a panegyric rather than a serious attempt to appraise and clearly set forth the life-work of the great teacher. It presents, however, a fairly good outline of the Doctor's career, and the eulogy-though too persistent and high-pitched-has the eloquence of sincerity. We cheerfully recommend the work to those who do not care to attempt Dean Stanley's larger "Life." Dr. Arnold's fame as Head-Master of Rugby was largely the fruit of his high conception of the extent and meaning of the teacher's function-a vital function strangely belittled by an ignoble army of "Bradley Headstones" and dusty gerund-grinders. The common-law maxim, in loco parentis, was full of grave and kindly meaning to the Doctor; while to the "Tom Browns" of Rugby a school-master meant something more than a Latin grammar and a stick. To round out the character, to produce the well-balanced man-the gentleman in the true sense -was Dr. Arnold's aim; and "the fruit which be, above all things, longed for, was a 'moral thoughtfulness; the inquiring love of truth going along with the devoted love of goodness."

An American edition has been issued by the J. B. Lippincott Company of M. Pierre Paris' compact "Manual of Ancient Sculpture," edited and translated by Jane E. Harrison. The work is a rapid survey, critical rather than historical, of the sculpture of Egypt, the Asiatic East, Greece, and Italy. The illustration is profuse, and, in the main, acceptable; and the bibliography and indexing are commendably thorough. About two-thirds of the volume is devoted to a résumé of the evolution of the Greek plastic art from the Archaic Xoanarude sexless idols, rough-hewn from tree trunks or slabs of limestone-to the divine masterpieces of the Pheidian and the Græco-Roman periods. Modern research (the chief results of which are noted in the present treatise) is gradually bringing to light work illustrative of this grand development, although the divergent chains which linked the sexless Xoanon to the array of marble divinities grandly typified for us in the Hermes of Praxiteles and the peerless Queen of the Louvre, are still far from entire. M. Paris' concise Manual, while intended chiefly for art students and amateurs, is admirably suited to the use of students of Greek life and history. The study of the Egyptian sculptures, although brief, is extremely interesting. It should be mentioned that the text has been augmented and corrected by the translator, whose work throughout is praiseworthy. The efforts of author and editor are well seconded by the publishers, who offer the Manual in a tasteful and substantial form.

A HISTORY of Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming, from 1540 to 1888, forms the latest volume in Mr. H. H. Bancroft's series, and covers the easternmost portion of the ground contemplated for that great A few more volumes will historical enterprise. complete this unparalleled series of histories, covering the Pacific Slope from Alaska to Central America. Each successive volume confirms the favorable opinion we have heretofore expressed of this important and invaluable series. Histories like those of Prescott, Parkman, or McMaster, these books are not; rather, they are storehouses of historical facts, gathered with infinite industry and pains, and collated and arranged with intelligent discrimination. The fulness of particulars is, in fact, almost bewildering; but these are brought into place in an orderly and systematic narrative, and made easily accessible separately by a good index in each vol-The work thus becomes at once a historical mine of unexampled richness in which the special student may delve, and a museum in which innumerable facts are classified and labelled for ready reference. (Published by the History Company, San Francisco.)

In the form of a series of biographies of leading explorers, Dodd, Mead & Co. promise a complete history of geographical discovery. Each work will be from the hand of a competent authority; and while the style will be popular, the more serious intent of the general plan will not be lost sight of. The initial volume, a life of the brave and scientific Elizabethan navigator John Davis, by C. B. Markham, F.R.S., augurs well for its successors. The account of Davis reads like a romance; and while full of instruction, it is sufficiently spiced with adventure to please the most exacting admirer of the inventions of Mr. Clark Russell and his compeers. The volume is supplied with maps, charts, and a few illustrations.

THOSE who have hitherto regarded the hermitpeople of Korea as a race of semi-barbarians will do well to read Mr. H. N. Allen's recently-published volume of "Korean Tales" (Putnam's Sons.) These tales, while displaying the naive invention and artlessness of folk-lore, have a unique flavor of their

own, due to the isolation of Korean civilization. One is surprised to learn that the Koreans are peculiarly sensitive to the beauties of nature, their favorite pastime being to "wander about over the beau-tiful green hills," enjoying the charms of the landscape. This profound sense of natural beauty lends a poetic charm and freshness to their literature, enriching it with pleasing images, and insuring a ready play of fancy. Several of the stories are in the vein of "Uncle Remus"; and, oddly enough, we find our Machiavellian friend "Br'er Rabbit" at his old tricks in Korea. The literary merit of Mr. Allen's work is impaired by a lack of careful revision.

In his "Life of Martin Van Buren" (Harper) Mr. George Bancroft gives us a broadly-sketched review of Van Buren's public career and policy, rather than a "Life" in the usual sense; and, while his work has its own special merits, it lacks the color and anecdotal quality which count for so much in biography. His standpoint is that of the advocate rather than that of the critic; and his "Life," in point of fulness and impartiality, seems to us inferior to that contributed by Mr. Shepard to the "American Statesmen" series. Of the accuracy of Mr. Bancroft's statement of facts, we have the warrant of Mr. Van Buren himself.

#### TOPICS IN LEADING PERIODICALS. March, 1890.

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Berlin. Mary S. Smith. Cosmopolitan.
Browning: Emily S. Forman. Cosmopolitan.
Brownings in Italy, The. Anne H. Wharton. Lippincott.
Brownings in Italy, The. Anne H. Wharton. Lippincott.
Bruno, Trial and Death of. W. R. Thayer. Atlantic.
Constitutional History, Recent. J. O. Fierce. Dial.
Creeds and Church Membership. W. Calkins. Andover.
Education, Universal. E. E. Hale. Cosmopolitan.
Electricity, Dangers from. John Trowbridge. Atlantic.
Ericsson, John. W. C. Church. Scribner.
Films. Sophie B. Herrick. Popular Science.
Glasgow. Albert Shaw. Century.
Gloucester Cathedral. Mrs. Van Rensselaer. Century.
Ibsen, Henrik. H. H. Boyesen. Century.
Ibsen, Henrik. W. E. Simonds. Dial.
Japan, An Artist's Letters from. J. La Farge. Century.
Jefferson, Joseph, Autobiography of. Century.
Lamb. Charles. B. E. Martin. Scribner.
Land-Ownership. D. E. Wing. Popular Science.
Manilla. Samuel Kneeland. Harper.
Militia. D. M. Taylor. Cosmopolitan.
Mouth, Physiognomy of the. Th. Piderit. Pop. Science.
Negro, Political Rights of. Andover.
Plateau, A. F. J. Sophie B. Herrick. Popular Science.
Negro, Political Rights of. Andover.
Plateau, A. F. J. Sophie B. Herrick. Popular Science.
Political Ethics. Herbert Spencer. Popular Science.
Shairp. Principal. C. A. L. Richards. Dial.
Signal Codes. W. H. Gilder. Cosmopolitan.
Sioux, Sun-Dance of the. F. Schwatka. Century.
Social and Political Discussion. John Bascom. Dial.
Tennyson. Atlantic.
U. S. Army. Wesley Merritt. Harper. Social and Folitical Discussion. John Buscom. It Tennyson. Atlantic. U. S. Army. Wesley Merritt. Harper. University Extension. Century. Venetian Boats. Elizabeth R. Pennell. Harper. Wages, Rising. Robt. Giffen. Popular Science.

#### BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following list includes all books received by THE DIAL during the month of February, 1890.]

#### BIOGRAPHY-HISTORY.

Dictionary of National Biography. Edited by Leslie Stephen. In about 50 vols. Large 8vo. Gilt top. Vols. I.—XXI., Abb-Glo. Macmillan & Co. Per vol., \$3.75.

Alexander. A History of the Origin and Growth of the Art of War from the Earliest Times to the Battle of Ipsus, B.C. 301. By Theodore Ayrault Dodge, author of "Cam-paign of Chancellorsville." Profusely Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 692. Gilt top. "Great Captains." Houghton, Mifflin

pp. 692. Gilt top. "Great Capellow. With Por-& Co. 85,00.
William Cullen Bryant. By John Bigelow. With Por-trait. 16mo, pp. 355. Gilt top. "American Men of Let-ters." Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1,25.
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